



The Association of Consulting Engineers of Hong Kong
香港顧問工程師協會

Newsletter Issue Nov 2016

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



Ian Chung ACEHK Chairman, delivered his speech at the ACEHK 39th Annual Dinner to recap on the commitments made last year and more importantly, how we pledged to elevate our profession in the upcoming challenges. Key messages are extracted below.

Opportunities - The top priority for opportunity last year is the "Belt and Road" initiative of the Central Government. ACEHK has been actively bridging our members with this initiative through participation in Belt and Road Summit 2016; being the advisor of the Belt and Road Portal initiated by HKTDC; meeting with the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government and participated in the 2016 Hong Kong Business Delegation to India and East Europe.

Apart from helping to capture Belt and Road opportunities, ACEHK also provides networking opportunities for member firms to meet with business partners via events in celebration of ACEHK's 40th anniversary including Client Reception, Photo competition, Seminar, and fund-raising Golf Day.

Innovation – With the objective to recognize, create, promote and disseminate information on innovations, the theme of our 40th ACE Anniversary Seminar held in June 2016 was "Innovation and Creativity" which attracted over 350 participants and 22 nos. as supporting organisation.

Human - In this respect, ACEHK has expressed our support on Lantau Development proposed by DEVB which is themed as "Space for all". We also encourage human-scale space and city identity to be embedded into the infrastructure planning during our 40th Anniversary Seminar.

Going forward - We are concerned by the increasing level of filibustering at the legislative council. The construction industry alliance including ACEHK will continue our efforts against filibustering. ACEHK will also advance our step in grabbing the opportunities in belt and road Initiative. Continued effort in bridging with HKTDC, Liaison department and IFFO (Infrastructure Financing Facilitation Office) will be focused next year.

As for sustainability of the construction profession in Hong Kong, ACEHK has a responsibility and mission to nourish and provide opportunities to our next generation. To better position our engineers and enrich their spectrum to face the upcoming challenges, ACEHK will provide our young engineers platform such school visits, experience sharing sessions, exchange programme, seminars and workshops for them to reach out, feel the business, strategize themselves so they can in turn contribute to the continued development of construction profession in Hong Kong.

I am sure we are all positive and excited about the unlimited opportunities and challenges ahead. With 40 years' of intelligence on our back, I am comfortable that we will continue the good works of ACEHK with a simple vision in mind – to build Hong Kong - our beloved home.

Ian CHUNG
Chairman

MATTERS OF THE MOMENT

The 39th Annual Dinner 2015

The 39th Annual Dinner was successfully held on 28 November 2016 at Cordis Hotel with a lot of enjoyment. The Association is pleased to have our Guest of Honour, Mr. Eric Ma, JP, Under Secretary for Development Bureau, HKSAR Government and delivered a remarkable keynote speech for the event. We also had an overwhelming response from 37 nos. of official guests and over 240 participants joining the dinner and the precious moments. The success of this Annual Dinner earmarked the continuous support from our member firms to contribute and strive for excellence in the engineering industry.



The use of confidential government information in relation to TPEDM Planning Data

In view of the recent news reported by the media and controversial discussion by the public on the use of confidential government information in relation to TPEDM Planning Data for private sector projects, ACEHK issued a letter to Development Bureau of HKSAR Government on 25 November 2016 to express our great concern on the issues which potentially may impose difficulties for consultants to conduct proper technical assessments and is not in the best interests of Hong Kong.

We therefore request the relevant departments to establish clear guidelines on the use of TPEDM, or make available any equivalent information for the Consulting industries to conduct proper technical assessments. To facilitate more effective communication on this matter, ACEHK requested an urgent meeting with the Secretary for Development/his representatives.

Design Training for Civil Engineering Graduate 2017

As expressed in the Chairman's speech during the 39th ACEHK Annual Dinner, ACEHK shared a mission to nourish and provide opportunities to our next generation. ACEHK received a sincere thanks and appreciation message from Highways Department for the support of ACEHK in the past two years to arrange the secondment places of their Civil Engineer Graduates (CEG) to our members' organizations to receive design training for a year. The feedbacks from our CEGs have been positive and they are all grateful to have the opportunity to work in ACEHK members' organizations.

This year, ACEHK is invited by Development Bureau of HKSAR Government to provide continue support on the programme. Their next batch of CEGs to be seconded to the consulting firms to receive their design training from 1 February 2017 to 31 January 2018. It is anticipated to have ten (10) CEGs to receive design training in our members' organizations next year.

Feedback from our members on the performance of the seconded CEGs and ways to make this secondment arrangement more fruitful and productive are welcomed.

40th Anniversary Fund Raising Golf Day

The 40th Anniversary Fund Raising Golf Day was successful held on 5th October 2016 at the Hong Kong Jockey Club Kau Sai Chau Golf Course. There were 24 golfers participating who were split into 6 flights, teeing off in the East Course. All participants enjoyed the meaningful event. A donation fund of \$20,000 was raised to Construction Charity Fund Fund (建造業關懷基金), which is to initially provide immediate financial assistance and condolences to families of workers who lost their family member in construction related accidents.



Requirement for Ownership Proof for Processing of General Building Plan (GBP)

As stipulated in the Circular Letter issued by the Building Authority dated 20 October 2010, the site of a proposed building for the purpose of Buildings Ordinance can only include land which applicant owns or which he has a realistic prospect of controlling. The applicant is required to submit "documentary proof of ownership or control of the land" and "copy of relevant Land Register memorial and assignment plans to indicate ownership, or other documentary proof of control of the land" as a pre-requisite for General Building Plan processing. Since the time of issuance of the Circular Letter, General Building Plans first submission without proof of 100% land ownership have been invariably approved under the Building Ordinances.

ACEHK submitted a jointly-signed letter with AAP, HKIA, HKIE, HKIP, PBSCA, HKILA and ACQS to express our concerns on the above requirement which we consider unnecessary and is not in the best interests of Hong Kong. The letter was issued to Development Bureau of HKSAR on 29 November 2016.

Our Concerns are summarized in the letter. We propose that the Building Authority could exercise a discretion to relax present 100% rule and accept cases where the applicant for approval of GBP can provide documentary proof minimum 80% ownership or control of the land for the purpose of General Building Plan processing.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The 40th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") – session 2015/2016 was successfully held on 1 December 2016. New council members have been elected.



UPCOMING EVENTS

40th Anniversary Album

ACEHK will issue a 40th anniversary album to mark this important milestone and look ahead. The album will contain a collection of photos received from the 40th Anniversary Photo Competition held earlier this year. We also welcome encouraging words and congratulatory messages from clients, all business partners and all ACEHK members. The album will be coming in early 2017. Sponsors are welcomed.

FEEDBACK CORNER

Event updates have also been posted in <http://www.acehk.org.hk>

Members can provide feedback on any current issue to chairman@acehk.org.hk